

Docket No. 2000-0067-01USSN 09/738,042

was in a single direction, i.e., the horizontal direction. In the present invention the cross-section is expanded in two directions such as the horizontal and the vertical direction by separate beam expanders.

The two independent claims have been amended to clarify the present invention and to clearly distinguish them from the referenced prior art.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons Applicants submit that the claims as amended should be allowable and request that they be allowed and the application allowed to issue as a patent.

Marked Up Copy and Clean-Set

Applicants have attached marked up copy of earlier versions of the claims showing changes made of the claims as now amended.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due in connection with this submission, however if any fees are due, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge our Deposit Account No. 03-4060 the appropriate amount.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 16, 2002

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DEC 16 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
For USSN 09/738,042

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A bidirection beam expansion line narrowing unit for a laser defining a laser chamber comprising:

- A) first direction beam expander positioned to receive a beam from said laser chamber said beam defining a generally rectangular cross-section and to expand a the cross-section of the beam from said laser in a first direction;
- B) a second direction beam expander positioned to expand the cross-section said beam in a second direction; and
- C) a grating positioned to reflect a selected narrow band of wavelengths back, via said second direction beam expander and said ~~second~~-first direction beam expander, to said laser chamber for amplification.

6. (Amended) A narrow band excimer laser comprising:

- A) a laser chamber comprising
 - 1) two electrodes;
 - 2) an excimer laser gas;
 - 3) a blower means for circulating the gas;
 - 4) a pulse power means for creating discharges between said electrodes to produce excimer laser pulses;
- B) a resonant cavity comprising an output coupler and a line narrowing unit said line narrowing unit comprising:
 - 1) first direction beam expander positioned to receive a beam from said laser chamber said beam defining a generally rectangular cross-section and to a expand the cross-section of the beam from said laser in a first direction;

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- 2) a second direction beam expander positioned to expand the cross-section said beam in a second direction; and
- 3) a grating positioned to reflect a selected narrow band of wavelengths back, via said second direction beam expander and said ~~second~~ first direction beam expander, to said laser chamber for amplification.